

STILLWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

Notice: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b).

REGULAR MEETING - December 31, 2019

PRESENT Commissioners Mark Crago, Chair, Commissioner Tyrel Hamilton telephonically, Commissioner Dennis Shupak; Mark Schreiner Road and Bridge Superintendent, Piney Helmuth Road and Bridge Administrative Assistant, Jerry Friend Treasurer, Carol Arkell DES, Shirlee Keffer, Brian Johnson, Marlo Pronovost Stillwater County News, Brandon Garoutte, Cynthia Garoutte, and Bill Haynes.

PLEDGE
Commissioner Crago opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE AGENDA
Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES
December 24, 2019 Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Courthouse is Closed January 1st, 2020. Burn permits must be renewed as of January 1st, 2020. Carol Arkell of DES and the Fire Warden added that the Burn Permit System is currently shut down due to high wind warning for the area and new permits will be available once the system is opened again.

CONSENT AGENDA

DES/E-911

A) Finalize MOU with Golden Valley County for use of Repeater

FILE ITEMS

Treasurer

A) Cash report July and August

Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to file the file items and consent to the consent items. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Commissioners

A) Appoint viewers and set public hearing dates for proposed abandonment of No Named Road off of Shane Creek Located at Section 14, Township 04 South, Range 20 East
Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to appoint Road Superintendent Mark Schreiner, Clerk and Recorder Heidi Stadel and County Commissioner Mark Crago as Viewers to consider the application to abandon said Road. The Public hearing for the matter has been set for January 21st at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Discussion; Brandon Garoutte stated that he would like to be able to speak for 20 minutes during the Public Hearing and would like to know if that is possible? Commissioner Hamilton stated that there is a comment period for every Public Hearing so yes, he would be able to speak. Shirlee Keffer asked why this “No Name Road” was being discussed so often lately. Commissioner Crago explained that there was an application before the Board and the process had to be followed so that was why it was being discussed. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Approval Finalized Master Plan for proposed new County Facilities. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the Finalized Master Plan for the Future Facilities upgrade. Commissioner Shupak **Seconded**. Discussion; Commissioner Hamilton thanked the FCIP Committee for the time and energy they have dedicated to get this project moving forward. While this does not mean that the project is said and done, it will give future Boards some direction to move towards. Shirlee Keffer asked if it was Plan A that the was being put forth? Commissioner Crago explained that it is a hybrid of Plan A and Plan C and a compilation of comments and suggestions received at the Public meetings and the from the survey results. Mrs. Keffer asked if Commissioner Crago was referring to the 162 surveys received? Commissioner Crago stated that yes, he was and that this is just a Planning document to move forward with goals in mind. Plans can change, buildings can move, get smaller or larger. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS

A written comment was received from citizen Shirlee Keffer and she read aloud:

For the records I'm Shirlee Keffer of Columbus residing in District #1

If one takes the time to navigate the website of our County, one can learn a great deal. In reading today's agenda, it appears that the Commissioners are ready to move forward on approving Concept Plan A for the County facilities.

I have been in opposition. For the most part residents of County are unaware of the future plans to provide office space for County Business (services). I have asked that the survey be sent to all property owners and voters(households) which has fallen on deaf ears (kind of); I was told it was the cost to mail as to not doing it. There were approximately 162 people that

responded to the survey. I do not consider this an exciting number however others involved do.

Important factor about County Business is looking at the “sideboards”. I was unable to attend the meeting held in the Commissioner’s office with the County Attorney and the Beartooth Front Coalition.

Lesson #1 learned; All Commissioners meeting at open to the PUBLIC except personnel issues AND litigation (lawsuit that is pending with this group)

Lesson #2 learned; By attending the weekly Tuesday morning meetings, I know first hand what took place and who was present before reading it in the local paper. Then there is the meeting after the meeting that I can ask in general, a question to a County Commissioner.

Lesson#3 learned; To be an informed citizen about out County Business, showing up is very important. Tomorrow brings us a NEW YEAR and spending money is in the forecast.

William Haynes of 60 Beartooth Vista Rd stated that he is a 20-year Stillwater County resident and believes that the while no one wants taxes raised the added services are justified. Mr. Haynes stated that he is a part owner in Collaborative Design in Billings Montana, a building an Architectural firm that has been recently working on the new Lockwood high school and projects for Musselshell and Custer Counties.

Brian Johnson also of Collaborative design stated that the Board is on the right path only suggesting to formalize the process going out for RFQ (Request for Qualifications) and by hiring a firm as soon as possible to solidify numbers.

Commissioner Crago thanked everyone for their comments

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Mark Crago, Commissioner Chairman

ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder